

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

39. (currently amended) A method for at least partially separating nucleic acid molecules in a sample into populations wherein the sample comprises a nucleic acid ~~[[a]] population [[is]]~~ tagged with a protein ~~capable of being immobilised on a matrix,~~ said method comprising contacting the tagged nucleic acid population ~~containing~~ ~~sample~~ with a matrix which selectively binds said protein whereby said protein interacts directly with the matrix, whereby the tagged molecules are captured by the matrix and are thereby separated from untagged molecules.